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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava DATE TYPED 01/25/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE College Tuition Payment for Certain Students SB 127

ANALYST Williams/Ford

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Response Received

Public Education Department (PED)

Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 127 amends existing statute to require that school districts pay tuition and fees of public school students who receive high school credit for higher education course work. In sum, the bill “legalizes” the participation of four- and six-year institutions in dually enrolling students and requires that school districts pay the tuition of high school students receiving credit from both a university and a high school. This requirement is currently applied to activities between community colleges and school districts. The bill recognizes a school district and the post-secondary institution may have an agreement to reduce or waive tuition and fees.

Significant Issues

Students enrolled in concurrent (dual) enrollment programs receive both high school and college credit for qualifying coursework. Most education experts indicate concurrent enrollment programs are valuable. In New Mexico, these students are included in the public school funding formula; as well, the student credit hours from the college courses in which they are enrolled are included in the workload component of the higher education funding formula. According to Laws 1990, Chapter 25, public school districts with students participating in concurrent enroll-

ment will transfer tuition and fees to the two-year, postsecondary institution if the student is counted in the membership of the public school district and will receive high school credit for coursework taken at a postsecondary institution.

Note tuition at four-year post-secondary institutions is significantly higher than at two-year institutions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill has no direct impact on the general fund, but impacts higher education institutions and school districts. Generally speaking, school districts pay, and community colleges receive, the tuition of dually enrolled students.

To the extent barriers to participation in dual enrollment are addressed, then the general fund cost of workload under the higher education funding formula will increase.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to Volume II of the Legislative Finance Committee budget recommendation, “despite recommendations from two task forces, the concurrent enrollment program remains plagued with inconsistent policies and a lack of data to understand participation, program outcomes, and fiscal costs” (page 317). Currently, there are significant variations across the state in the payment mechanisms for tuition, fees, books, and transportation (see attached table).

The purpose, goals, and objectives of the concurrent enrollment program are not readily clear. The need for data and in some cases, better quality data, reflecting the program and its performance was noted by the 2003 Task Force Report on Concurrent Enrollment. It is not clear if CHE and PED are advancing in this area. There have been no performance measures or accountability tracking for the program reported by either CHE or PED; CHE is proposing to measure the number of students in the program in FY06, but lacks focus on program outcomes.

There are significant concerns regarding enforcement of existing statute by the CHE and PED. Inconsistencies exist in the following:

- Terms of the agreements between school districts and postsecondary institutions;
- Who pays for tuition, textbooks, and fees;
- What courses are available for concurrent enrollment or dual credit;
- Who teaches the course;
- What sort of credit the courses earn; and
- Who provides transportation for participating students

Statute and regulations regarding funding and credit earned are not enforced. The kinds of courses eligible for concurrent enrollment are uncertain and inconsistent.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How many school districts currently report they have dually enrolled students?
2. On a statewide basis, how many students are participating in dual enrollment?

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3. What steps are being taken to ensure that the provisions of the law are enforced?
4. Which agency is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the law?
5. How are PED and CHE addressing program inconsistencies?
6. What steps are being taken to ensure effectiveness and accountability?

EF/yr

Attachment

HIGHER ED I

Summary of Concurrent Enrollment (Dual Enrollment) Variations in Program Cost Distributions
 Survey Request from the Legislative Finance Committee & Prepared by the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges
 Aug-04

College	School/District			Student/Parent			College		
	Tuition and Fees	Books	Supplies/Tools	Tuition and Fees	Books	Supplies/Tools	Tuition and Fees	Books	Supplies/Tools
Albuquerque TVI	Note ¹				x	x	x		
Clovis CC	See Attached								
ENMU-Roswell	x				x	x			
ENMU-Ruidoso	Note ²			x	x	x			
Luna CC	Note ³								
Mesalands CC	x	x	x	x	Note ⁴	Note ⁴			
NM Jr. College		Note ⁵	Note ⁵		Note ⁵	Note ⁵	x		
NMSU-Alamo.				x	x	x	x Note ⁶		
NMSU-Carlsbad	x	x Note ⁷				x			
NMSU-Dona Ana	x	x				x	x Note ⁸		
NMSU-Grants	x	x	x						
Northern NM CC				x Note ⁹	x	x	Note ⁹		
San Juan College	x	x							x
Santa Fe CC		Varies	Varies				\$30/cr hr		
UNM-Gallup	x Note ¹⁰	x							
UNM-Los Alamos					x	x	x		
UNM-Taos			x				x	x	
UNM-Valencia	Note ¹¹								

Note¹: Starting spring 2005, there will be an out-of-district fee that will be assessed to the school district

Note²: CISCO Networking course

Note³: Of the total expenses, 80% is paid for by the college and 20% by the school district

Note⁴: Student pays for books and supplies only at Tucumcari High and in some cases Logan High

Note⁵: Some school district buy books and supplies, others do not so in those cases the student or parent pays

Note⁶: While the college pays the tuition, the fees are paid by the student or the parent

Note⁷: Only the Loving school district pays for books; he student pays for books in the Carlsbad district

Note⁸: DABCC offsets some of the cost in all categories on a case by case basis

Note⁹: Espanola school district does pay for tuition and fees and not the student/parent; Northern NM CC pays for selected extended

Note¹⁰: For area vocational school classes, the schools pay \$110 per student per term instead of the \$250 regular tuition

Note¹¹: One school district pays nothing, student/parent responsible for tuition, fees, books and supplies; one school district pays for tuition/fees only-parent/student responsible for books and supplies; and for the third district, the college pays for tuition pays for tuition and fees and the school district pays for books and supplies